

# THE LEISURE HOUR.

A FAMILY JOURNAL OF INSTRUCTION AND RECREATION.

"BEHOLD IN THESE WHAT LEISURE HOURS DEMAND,—AMUSEMENT AND TRUE KNOWLEDGE HAND IN HAND."—Cowper.



NEAR THE HAUNT OF THE TIGERS.

## JAMES BRAITHWAITE THE SUPERCARGO.

### CHAPTER XV.

My host, in spite of his annoyance, did not forget the duties of hospitality, and warmly pressed our unwelcome visitor to take some refreshment. The young officer, however, declined on the plea that the day was already far spent, and that he had no time to spare. On going round to the front of the house, I found two led horses under the charge of a soldier. They were absurdly small for cavalry, and would have been quickly ridden over by any one of our heavy regiments.

I was about to bid Mynheer Van Deck farewell. "No, not yet, my friend," he answered. "I purpose accompanying you to Cheribon, that I may render you any service in my power. I have a horse, and will follow immediately."

The officer made a sign of impatience, so I mounted one of the steeds, and Jack sprang on the back of the other, where he sat very much as a big monkey would have done, fully resolved, it seemed, to enjoy any fun which might be forthcoming. As the French soldiers treated him kindly, and spoke in a good-natured tone to him, though he could not understand what they said,

his fears quickly vanished, and he was speedily "hail fellow well met" with them all.

The officer I found a very gentlemanly young man. He rode up alongside me after we had proceeded a little way, and seemed eager enough to talk about La Belle France, Paris, the opera, and theatres; but when I endeavoured to draw any information from him respecting the proceedings at the west end of the island, he closed his mouth, or gave only vague answers. From this I argued that affairs had not gone with the French in quite as satisfactory a manner as they wished. I asked him at last whether he thought that I should be detained or be otherwise inconvenienced by the commandant at Cheribon.

"We shoot spies," he answered laconically, at the same time shrugging his shoulders as a Frenchman only can do. "*C'est la fortune de la guerre.*"

"But, my dear sir, I am no spy," I answered. "The governor, or native chief, purposed to seize my vessel, and I was left on shore while she made her escape. I am but a supercargo anxious to sell the goods entrusted to me."

The young officer gave a smile of incredulity, yet with an air of so much politeness that I really could not be angry with him; indeed it would have done me no good if I were. We were in a short time joined by Mynheer Van Deck, who came galloping up on a much finer horse than any possessed by the French soldiers. I found from my captor that the journey would be far longer than I had expected, as we had to make a considerable detour to visit a native chief, or prince, to whom he had a message. My belief was that he was beating up for native recruits to oppose the British force, which, if not arrived, must have been hourly expected. We had several natives with us, armed with long spears and daggers, a few only having firelocks. Van Deck told me that we should soon have to pass a river, rather a dangerous spot, on account of the number of tigers which came there to drink, and which had already carried off several natives.

"But surely they would not venture to attack so large a body of men as this," I remarked.

"Not if we could keep together, unless they happen to be very hungry," he answered. "Unfortunately, however, the path in some places is so narrow that we have to proceed in single file, and as there are fallen trees and other impediments in the way, travellers are apt to get separated, when, of course, they are more liable to be picked off. I always keep my pistol cocked in my hand, that I may have a chance of shooting my assailant."

"But I came on shore unarmed, and have no pistols," I answered.

"Then keep ahead of me, and if I see a tiger spring at you I will fire at him, and do my best to save you."

"But the poor boy who is with me, he has a poor chance, I am afraid," I observed, after I had thanked my friend for his offer.

"Oh, he is safe enough if he keeps close to the soldiers—the clatter of their arms frightens the beasts."

While the Dutchman was speaking we came in sight of the river. It was fordable, though rather deep, and as the leading men on their small horses plunged in, the water was up to their saddle-girths. I naturally looked out on either side for our expected enemies. Three or four large animals sprang off just as the leading horses reached the opposite bank. I thought they were tigers.

"Oh, no, they are only wild cats," said Van Deck.

"Rather unpleasant to be caught by one of them asleep, but they are easily frightened."

I thought to myself, If those creatures are Java wild cats, what must Java tigers be like? We all passed across the stream without any accident, a small body of half-clad natives bringing up the rear. They were climbing up the somewhat steep bank, when a fearful shriek, followed by loud shouts and cries, made me turn my head, and I caught sight of a monster bounding along the bank with the writhing, struggling body of a human being between his huge jaws. The poor wretch's *sarung*, or plaid, had become loose, and dragged after him. Already several natives were setting off in chase, while others were discharging their firearms at the animal, though at the risk of killing the man. The French officer called out to them to desist, and, seizing a lance from one of the people, gallantly dashed after the tiger. I naturally wished to join in the chase, but Van Deck entreated me to stop, telling me that I should very likely, if I went, be picked off by another tiger on my return. As it would have been folly to disregard his advice, we pushed on as fast as we could to get out of the narrow defile. We could for several minutes hear the shouts of the natives still in pursuit of the tiger. After some time they rejoined us, but they had not saved the poor man, and had moreover lost another of their number, who had been carried off by a tiger just as the first leaped over a cliff fifty feet above the valley with the man still in its mouth. It was followed triumphantly by its companion.

"This is not the country I should choose to travel in, still less to live in," I said.

"It cannot be helped," observed the Dutchman. "I am well off here, a great man among small people. I should be a beggar elsewhere. This is not, however, the country in which a man of education and mind would choose to pitch his tent."

Torches were lit for the latter part of our journey. It will be remembered that so nearly under the equator as we were the days and nights are of equal length all the year round, we therefore did not enjoy the delightful twilight of a northern clime.

Notice had been given of our proposed visit to the chief, or prince, who was, I was told, of Malay descent. Preparations were therefore made for our reception, and very handsome they were. Though a prisoner, I was treated like the rest of the guests. The house was much in the style of those I have before described. But I was not prepared to find a table elegantly set out and spread with fine linen and beautiful silver plate. It was lighted by four large wax flambeaux in massive silver candlesticks. The provisions were dressed in the Malay fashion, many of the dishes being very palatable, and an abundance of excellent Bordeaux was provided, in which toasts were drunk with three times three, the Malays of inferior rank, who sat round the room on the ground against the walls to the number of thirty, joining in the huzzas. It was altogether a curious scene of barbaric splendour. The prince escorted us to our rooms, where we found capital beds, beautiful linen, and very fine mosquito-nets, ornamented with fringe. The Malay servants slept under the beds on mats, or in the corners of the rooms, to be in readiness if required. Breakfast was prepared at daybreak, that we might continue our journey in the cool of the morning.

We rested under the shade of some trees during the day, the soldiers keeping up a fearful din to scare away any wild beast who might chance to be prowling about in search of a dinner. The young officer had fortunately a French cook among his men, who very soon contrived

to place before us a capital dinner, though of what it was composed I could not discover. I rather think that hashed monkey formed one of the dishes. As, towards night, we approached Cheribon, my kind Dutch friend did his best to keep up my spirits, assuring me that he would spare no pains to prove that I was not a spy. He was not quite sure that the accounts received of the defeat of the English were correct; and the French commandant would scarcely venture to hang me without very strong proofs of my guilt, and with the possibility of being made a prisoner himself by my countrymen ere long, should they have been victorious. Still it was with no very pleasant feelings that I was formally conducted into the fort as a prisoner.

The forts of Cheribon had been allowed to fall into decay by the Dutch, but since the French occupation of the island had been repaired and considerably strengthened. I was told that the commandant boasted that he could hold out against any force likely to be sent against him, even should my countrymen gain the day. I was taken at once before him, and examined, but though he had no evidence to prove me guilty, as I was accused of being a spy he would not take my parole. I was by his orders accordingly locked up in a cell with iron bars to the windows, a three-legged stool, and a heap of straw in a corner for a bed. Mr. Van Deck had not entered the fort. In a little time Jack was thrust into the cell with very little ceremony. He brought me a message from my Dutch friend, saying that there had been a battle, and he suspected that the French had been defeated. I heartily hoped that he was correct. I had reason to believe that my prison, bad as it was, was the best in the fort, for Jack told me that he had seen guards going round with messes of food which they put into wretched dark holes, and in one as he was led along he saw a miserable gaunt man with long matted hair put out a lean yellow hand to take the food. This information made me hope more than ever that Van Deck was right in his suspicions, for I had no fancy to be shut up in a dark cell for months in such a climate, with the possibility of being taken out and shot as a spy. Had I been a naval or military man, I should not have been thus treated. Several very unpleasant days and nights passed by, a scanty allowance of coarse food only being brought to me and my young companion. The sergeant of the guard, however, intimated that if I would pay for it he could procure me a bottle or so of Bordeaux. He was as good as his word, and I believe that without the wine I should have fallen ill.

At length one day the sergeant threw open my prison-door, and Van Deck appearing took me by the hand and led me out of my noisome dungeon, followed by Jack, who gave a shout of joy as he found himself in the open air.

"I sent to Batavia, where your ship has arrived, and where your statement was fully corroborated, and the commandant had therefore no further excuse for keeping you a prisoner," said my friend. "But there is another reason why he would not venture to do so much longer—look there!"

He pointed seaward, where several large ships were seen approaching the land. He handed me a glass. I examined them eagerly. They were frigates, with the flag of old England flying at their peaks. Jack, when he heard this, gave a loud huzzza and threw up his cap with delight, jumping and clapping his hands, and committing other extravagances, till I ordered him to be quiet, lest the French soldiers should put a sudden stop to the exhibition of his feelings.

The frigates approached till they had got just within

long gunshot range of the fort, when after some time a boat put off from one of them, and approached the fort bearing a flag of truce. That was at all events pleasant. There was a chance of a battle being avoided, yet the commandant had so loudly sworn that nothing should make him yield to the English, that I was afraid he might be obstinate and insist on holding out. We were on the point of hurrying down to meet the boat, when a sergeant with a guard stopped us and told us politely enough that we must stay where we were, or that Jack and I must go back to prison.

"We must obey orders," observed Van Deck. "The fact is, that the commandant is aware that you are acquainted with the weak points of the fort, that the gun-carriages are rotten, and many of the guns are themselves honeycombed or dismantled."

We were conducted out of the way when the officer with the flag of truce entered the fort. Looking from the ramparts, however, we could see the boat and the people in her through Van Deck's glass, and a young midddy was amusing himself, so it appeared to me, by daring some little Dutch or rather native boys to come off and fight him, which they seemed in no way disposed to do, for whenever he held up his fists they ran off at a great rate. Of one thing I was very sure, that if the French commandant did not yield with a good grace, he would be very soon compelled to do so. That squadron of frigates had not come merely to give a civil message and to sail away again. We walked up and down impatiently, waiting to hear what was to be done.

At length, after an hour's delay, the officer who had brought the message, Captain Warren, of the President, issued from the commandant's house with his coxswain bearing a flag under his arm. Down came the tricolour of France, and up went the glorious flag of England. Jack was beside himself on seeing this, and I could scarcely refrain from joining in his "Hurra! hurra!" as I hurried forward to meet the English captain, whose acquaintance I had made at the Mauritius. The French commandant intimated, on this, that I was at liberty, but, as I felt that it would be ungrateful to leave my friend Van Deck abruptly, I resolved to remain on shore for the present with him.

In a very short time the marines came on shore to secure the thus easily acquired possession, but scarcely had they formed on the beach, than it was ascertained that a large body of the enemy had entered the town. The order was given to charge through them, and, taken by surprise, the French and Dutchmen threw down their arms, and several officers and others were taken prisoners. Among them was General Jumel, second in command to General Janssen, and Colonel Knotzer, aid-de-camp to the latter, who with others were at once carried off to the ships.

Cheribon I found to be a much larger place than I at first supposed; the streets are narrow but numerous, and in the outskirts especially the houses of the natives are so completely surrounded by trees and bushes, that it is impossible to calculate their number. I heard that the Phoebe was one of the squadron, and soon had the satisfaction of shaking hands with my brother William, Toby Trundle, and other officers belonging to her. From them I heard a full account of the engagement which had given the greater part of the magnificent island of Java to the English. I was the more interested as my military brother had taken part in it, and distinguished himself. I hoped to meet him when I got to Batavia.

The army, which was commanded by Sir Samuel



Anchmuty, consisting of 11,000 men, half being Europeans, disembarked on the evening of the 5th of August at the village of Chillingchin, twelve miles north of Batavia. Colonel Gillespie advanced on the city of Batavia, of which he took possession, and beat off the enemy who attempted to retake it. A general engagement took place on the 10th at Welteurenden, when the French were defeated and compelled to retire to the strongly entrenched camp of Cornelis. It was supposed to contain 250 pieces of cannon. Here General Janssen commanded in person, with General Jumel, a Frenchman, under him, with an army of 13,000 men. Notwithstanding this, the forts were stormed and taken, and the greater number of the officers captured. The commander-in-chief, with General Jumel, escaped—the latter, as I have mentioned, to fall very soon afterwards into our hands.

An expedition consisting of marines and blue jackets was now organised to meet a body of the fugitive army said to be marching from Cornelis. As William was of the party, I got leave to accompany it. That we might move the faster, horses had been obtained, and both marines and blue-jackets were mounted; that is to say, they had horses given them to ride, but as the animals though small were frisky and untrained, they were sent very frequently sprawling into the dust, and were much oftener on their feet than in their saddles. Our force as we advanced certainly presented a very unmilitary appearance, though we made clatter enough for a dozen regiments of dragoons. We were in search of the military chest, said to be with the fugitives. We fell in with a large party, who, however, having had fighting enough, sent forward a flag of truce and capitulated. We got possession, however, of some waggon-loads of ingots, but they were ingots of copper, and were said to be of so little value in the country as to have been fired as grape-shot from Cornelis. The moon shone brightly forth for the first part of the march, but no sooner did it become obscured than a considerable number of the marines were seized with a temporary defective vision very common within the tropics, called nyctalopia, or night blindness. The attack was sudden; the vision seldom became totally obscured, but so indistinct that the shape of objects could not be distinguished. While in this state the sufferers had to be led by their comrades. With some it lasted more than an hour; with others not more than twenty minutes, and on the approach of day all traces of it had disappeared.

On our march, during the heat of the day, we passed through a wood, every tree in which seemed to have been blasted by lightning. Not a branch nor leaf remained to afford us shelter from the scorching rays of the sun. Had I not known that the story of the noxious effects produced by the upas-tree was a fiction, I might have supposed that the destruction had been caused by a blast passing amid the boughs of one of those so-called death-dealing trees in the neighbourhood. Probably the forest had been destroyed partly by lightning, and partly by the conflagration it had caused.

On returning to Cheribon, I found that my friend Van Deck was anxious to proceed to Batavia, and I was fortunate in being able to procure him a passage on board the *Phœbe*, which was going there at once.

"Well, Braithwaite, I shall never despair of your turning up safe," exclaimed Captain Hassall, shaking my hand warmly as I stepped on the deck of the *Barbara*. "You saved the ship and cargo by your promptness, for had I not got your message by young Jack there, I should have been captured to a certainty.

Garrard, Janrin, and Co. have reason to be grateful to you, and I have no doubt that they will be so."

Everybody knows that Batavia is a large Dutch town built in the tropics—that is to say, it has broad streets, with rows of trees in them, and canals in the centre, of stagnant water, full of filth, and surrounded by miasmatic exuding marshes. But the neighbourhood is healthy, and the merchants and officials mostly only come into the town in the daytime, and return to their country-houses at night. Some seasons are worse than others, nobody knows why. Captain Cook was there on his first voyage round the world during a very bad one, and, in spite of all his care, lost a number of people. We were more fortunate, but did not escape without some sickness.

Captain Hassall had disposed of most of that portion of our cargo suited for the Batavian market, so that I soon got rid of the rest. I then made arrangements for the purchase of sugar, tea, coffee, spices, and several other commodities which I believed would sell well at Sydney, to which place we proposed to proceed, touching at a few other points, perhaps, on our way.

The articles had, however, first to be collected, as the army had consumed the greater portion in store at Batavia. Part of the purchase I made from a brother of my friend Van Deck. He was on the point of sailing in a brig he owned along the coast to collect produce, and invited me to accompany him. I gladly accepted his offer, as the *Barbara* could not sail till his return.

In those days, as well, indeed, as from the memory of man, these seas swarmed with pirates—many of whom had their head-quarters on the coast of Borneo. Among them was a chief, or rajah, named Raga, notorious for the boldness and success of his undertakings. We, however, believed that with so many British men-of-war about he would seek some more distant field for his operations. The harbour was full of native craft of all sorts. Of the native prahus alone there are many varieties, some built after European models, and carrying sails similar to those of our English luggers. Others are of native construction, with lateen sails; and many, built with high stems and sterns, have the square mat sail, such as impel the Batavian fishing prahus. Of course among so many craft a pirate chief could easily find spies ready to give him information of all that was going forward. However, we troubled our heads very little about the pirates.

By-the-bye, I have not said anything about the alligators of Java, which are, I believe, larger than in any other part of the world. The government will not allow those in the harbour of Batavia to be disturbed, as they act the part of scavengers, by eating up the garbage which floats on the water, and might otherwise produce a pestilence. I often passed them floating on the surface, and snapping at the morsels which came in their way, quite indifferent to the boats going to and fro close to them. Captain Beaver, of the *Nisus* frigate, described to me one he saw in another part of the island, when on an exploring expedition. It was first discovered basking on a mud-bank, and neither he nor the officers with him would believe that it was an animal, but thought at first that it was the huge trunk of a tree. At the lowest computation it was forty feet in length. The circumference of the thickest part of the body seemed nearly that of a bullock, and this continued for about double the length. The extent of the jaws was calculated to be at least eight feet. The eyes glistened like two large emeralds, but with a lustre which nothing inanimate could express. The officers

examined it through their glasses, and came to the conclusion that it was asleep; but the native guides assured them that it was not. To prove this, one of them fearlessly leaped on shore and approached the creature, when it glided off into the water, creating a commotion like that produced by the launch of a small vessel.

I bade farewell to William and my friends of the Phoebe, not without some sadness at my heart. In those times of active warfare it might be we should never meet again. Of my soldier brother I got but a hurried glimpse before he embarked on an expedition which was sent to capture Sourabaya, at the other end of the island. A few words of greeting, and inquiries and remarks, a warm long grasp of hands, and we parted. Directly I stepped on board Van Deck's brig, the Theodora, the anchor was weighed, and we stood out of the harbour with a strong land breeze. The easterly monsoon which prevailed was in our teeth, so that we were only able to progress by taking advantage of the land and sea breezes. The land breeze commenced about midnight, and as it blew directly from the shore, we were able to steer our course the greater part of the night; but after sunrise the wind always drew round to the eastward, and we were consequently forced off the shore. The anchor was then dropped till towards noon, when the sea breeze set in. Again we weighed, and stood towards the shore, as near as possible to which we anchored, and waited for the land breeze at night.

We had thus slowly proceeded for three or four days, having called off two estates for cargo, when, as we lay at anchor, a fleet of five or six prahus were seen standing towards us with the sea breeze, which had not yet filled our sails. Van Deck, after examining them through his glass, said that he did not at all like their appearance, and that he feared they intended us no good. On they came, still directly for us. We got up all the arms on deck and distributed them to the crew, who, to the number of thirty, promised to fight to the last. Then we weighed anchor and made sail, ready for the breeze. It came at last, but not till the prahus were close up to us. Under sail we were more likely to beat them off than at anchor. They soon swarmed round us, but their courage was damped by the sight of our muskets and guns. Of their character, however, we had not a shadow of doubt. After a short time of most painful suspense to us they lowered their sails and allowed us to sail on towards the shore. Here we anchored, as usual, to wait for the land breeze. Had there been a harbour, we would gladly have taken shelter within it, for the merchant, the elder Van Deck, said that he knew the pirates too well, and that they might still be waiting for an opportunity to attack us. There was, however, no harbour, and so we had to wait in our exposed situation, in the full belief that the pirates were still in the offing, and might any moment pounce down upon us. The Van Decks agreed that we might beat them off, but that if they should gain the upper hand, they would murder every one on board the vessel. "We might abandon the vessel, and so escape any risk," observed the merchant—not in a tone as if he intended to do so. "You, at all events, Mr. Braithwaite, can be landed, and you can easily get back to Batavia." Against this proposal of course my manhood rebelled, though I had a presentiment, if I may use the expression, that we should be attacked. "No, no! I will stay by you and share your fate, whatever that may be," I replied. Night came on, and darkness hid all distant objects from view.

We were in the handsome, well-fitted-up cabin, en-

joying our evening meal, when the mate, a Javanese, put his head down the skylight and said some words in his native tongue, which made the Dutchmen start from their seats, and seizing their pistols and swords, rush on deck. I had no difficulty, when I followed them, in interpreting what had been said. The pirate prahus were close upon us.

## A LADY'S JOURNEY THROUGH SPAIN.

### CHAPTER VI.—THE SIERRA NEVADA.

BEFORE leaving Granada, I should give a short account of some excursions we made in the neighbourhood. We went to the Soto de Roma, about nine miles from the city, an estate which in old times belonged to the kings of Granada, and was frequently bestowed on court favourites. After the victory of Salamanca, the Cortes granted the estate to "our duke, who held it, as it is called, in fee simple and unentailed." It contains between 4,000 and 5,000 acres. The small village of Roma lies on the banks of the Xenil. The town of Santa Fé, built by Ferdinand and Isabella during the long siege of Granada, is easily visited on one's return to the town; it is only curious from its associations, as it is in a most dilapidated state; but the capitulation of Granada was actually signed there, and it is also interesting in no common degree as the spot from whence Columbus set forth on his voyage of discovery.

Our next excursion was the ascent of the Sierra Nevada. We started soon after daylight. To those used to mountain expeditions there is no difficulty worth speaking of, not even for ladies. We had good strong mules, which we preferred, but horses may be had for those who like them. There is a very practicable way nearly to the summit, formed entirely by those who go every day at nightfall to procure snow for the consumption of Granada; their mules have made a regular track. The people employed in this work are called "Neveros," and the cavalcade is a very picturesque sight as it winds down the narrow path, each mule with its heavy load of snow, and the Neveros in their singular dress, looking well suited to the scene and the employment. We had very good intelligent guides, one to each mule; I never allowed mine to wander far from my bridle-rein, only far enough to procure me some of the numerous beautiful wild flowers growing all around. One halt we made at what is called the Piedras de San Francisco (the rocks of Saint Francis). The dark gloomy masses show strongly on the brilliant white of the Sierra. We then came upon the vast snow pits that bear so different an aspect when seen from below, looking hardly bigger than white spots on the mountain side, but in reality they are wide extended snow fields that never wholly disappear, not even in the most glowing summer heat. We had taken with us every sort of protection against the cold that either our own ingenuity or the kindness of friends could suggest, for we intended passing the night on the mountain in order to witness the sunrise from the summit. Not only were we provided with outward wraps, but with inward restoratives; and the night was most glorious. We had started so early that we had much time at our disposal after we reached the stone edifice built as a refuge for travellers, but there was so much to amuse us as we rambled about, so many lovely, or rather grand peeps of scenery to see, such curious stones to be picked up, such wild legends to listen to told by the guides, that we could hardly believe our eyes when watches were produced and we found the

time for our evening meal had arrived. Words would fail to give any description of the glory of a starlight night on the mountain.

Our guides took care to rouse us in good time, that we might get to the summit before the sun was up. They had made a blazing wood fire in order to warm us, and that we might enjoy some scalding hot coffee before our start; and very picturesque the fire looked in the dim light, as we turned back to take a last look at our bivouac. We rode as far as we could, and then leaving the mules we started for the final walk that was to bring us to the summit; it was very steep, but we did not mind it, and the morning promised to be glorious beyond description. At last a loud shout of rejoicing from all the guides told us the welcome news that the goal was reached, and we threw ourselves down on the cloaks spread for us to recover breath and strength before we gazed on all the wonders around. The sun was just showing his bright crimson and gold rays, colouring everything with gorgeous hues. We stood on a small platform as it were, with a deep abyss immediately below us; volumes of mist still rolled all over the lower valleys; the beautiful blue sea lay on one side, with a dim horizon line beyond it; rocky peaks, mountain summits, were below and around. Little by little the golden light ascended, and the eye grew more accustomed to the scene. It was a wonderful panorama indeed!

Another pleasant ride took us to the spot bearing the melancholy name of "El Ultimo Suspiro del Moro." It was on that very spot, as history tells us, that Boabdil turned to take a last lingering farewell look at his beautiful city.

#### CHAPTER VII.—TO MALAGA.

At length the day came when beautiful Granada must be left behind. Many and many a time we called a halt in the cavalcade that we might take yet one more look at the Vega spread out like a verdant carpet, and at the glorious Sierra Nevada glistening in all its snowy beauty, for we started at that early hour, when, if the sky is clear and free from mists, the summits stand out against the blue sky as though carved in ivory. Last looks must be taken by others besides King Boabdil, and so finally, with sincere regret, we turned our faces and our thoughts towards our onward journey. We were to ride from Granada to Malaga, and thence proceed to Seville, and with so much enjoyment in prospect we had not time to dwell upon our regrets for past pleasures. Most delightful our journey proved.

We rode horses, and found them altogether less fatiguing than mules, whose paces are decidedly trying. Anything more wretched than the village of Caini, situated nearly at the lowest point of a funnel-like ravine or gorge, I never saw; perhaps it struck us more from the contrast it presented to the scenes we had just left. Then we passed the mineral baths of Alhama. As usual, the Moorish bath is far the best, and very picturesque; the water must be very hot, for clouds of vapour rose up from it. These baths are considered very efficacious in cases of rheumatism. We reached Alhama about four o'clock in the afternoon. Its situation is striking, and the artist might fill his portfolio with sketches taken from different points of view. Houses seem to be perched on the very edge of precipitous cliffs; their gardens look as if suspended in mid-air; the vines cover every trellis, climb here, there, and everywhere; and far down below the foaming river, the Marchan, boils in agitated tumult, forming nume-

rous cascades, and supplying water for the different mills.

Beyond Alhama the mountains are sterile and gloomy, but they have an air of wild grandeur that served to enhance our view the next morning of Vinnela, a small town or village lying in the very lap of plenty. In that rich summer season the abundance of produce of all sorts was astonishing.

As we rode on, and came in sight of Velez Malaga, we really were unable to express the extent of our admiration and delight. On a steep rock are the remains of an old Moorish castle, with the town clustered about it; spires, and convents, and towers, all in a picturesque confusion. The streams of water rushing down the sides of the mountains have brought in their course rich moist soil to fertilise the beautiful valleys of Velez; and the extraordinary luxuriance caused by the plentiful moisture, joined with the burning sun of that country, is almost incredible. Nothing can exceed the beauty of Velez Malaga with its vine-clad mountains, the lovely blue sea, and the enchanting climate to give added delights to all this beauty. Truly it may be said to be a land of oil and honey, for the honey made in the neighbourhood is most delicious, and it is exported in large quantities, while much is used in the preparation of various delicate confections. There are all the advantages of tropical climates, but none of the terrible scourges that usually accompany them. We see the tall stately palm-tree, but no scorching sandy desert; here the sugar-cane, which was brought to Spain in the days of the Carthaginians, flourishes in perfection, and yet our feelings are not distressed by the thoughts of the slave labour employed in the cultivation. So delightful did we think Velez Malaga, that, contrary to our intention, we lingered on day after day. Summer was in all its glory, for the heat had not lasted long enough to burn up its verdure. The sea breezes, too, were most invigorating, not to mention the delightful sea-bathing. The nights we spent in the midst of these scenes are never to be forgotten. The air was softer, warmer, purer, than any I have ever felt even in Madeira, where I spent a winter.

We were anxious to reach Seville before the burning August heats came on, so the orders were given and we were once more on our way. We soon found we had only passed on from one spot of exquisite beauty to another in every way equal to it. Malaga is between soft sloping hills and the bright waters of the Mediterranean. The climate is thought to be more salubrious than any other that Europe can boast of, and I can easily believe it from all I heard during our stay. Rain is almost unknown, and yet there is no burning heat, owing to the sea breezes, and the temperature in winter at the lowest is 50°.

The province of Malaga, of which this beautiful city is the capital, is without doubt the richest in Spain. The most valuable metals, the most rare and beautiful marbles abound in the hills that surround it; its floral treasures are varied and abundant. Sugar, cocoa, coffee, cotton, all are cultivated with great success; and the situation of the city on the bay gives every advantage for exporting all the varied produce of the land. Its fame as a trading port was well known to the Phœnicians, and for more than 3,000 years has it retained its commercial existence. It has from times of the most remote antiquity been the chosen residence of some of the merchant princes of different nations, and it is most interesting during a stay there to trace back its history. There is a curious custom, a remnant of old times: the great bell of the cathedral tolls three times on the 18th



of August every year at three in the afternoon, in commemoration of the terrible siege that was laid to the town by Ferdinand in 1487. On that day it surrendered, upon good terms as they were considered; but Ferdinand, with his usual faithlessness and treachery where the Moors were concerned, broke every promise he had made, and the success of the Christian army was celebrated by every sort of horror. Yet the sufferings of the Moors were quite equalled in later days, when the town was sacked by the French troops.

The ladies at Malaga are charming. We made acquaintance with some very agreeable families, and generally spent our evenings in the midst of a most delightful society. There is great beauty amongst the Malaguenas; they are most attractive, gay at times, and full of sprightly and piquant ideas, while at other times their mood changes, and they display all the fascinating languor and grace of the Orientals. When they heard it mentioned incidentally that I kept a journal, and described all I saw and heard with a view to its publication, their intense eagerness to know in what terms I had spoken of them was very amusing, and it was all displayed with a *naïveté* that gave it a great charm in our eyes. Their kindness and courteous hospitality during our stay will not easily be forgotten.

An extensive trade is carried on at Malaga in dried fruit, especially raisins. The kind of grape that is cultivated to be dried, is called the *Una Larga* (or large egg grape). They are sent to foreign parts in jars of a shape similar to those found in Pompeii. The manner of preparing them is by cutting the stalk partly through, and leaving them hanging in the sun. A million boxes or jars are exported every year. The Malaga sweet wines are also very celebrated; they are called muscatel wines. The sea air is supposed to be highly beneficial to the vines; they cover the hills sloping down to the sea for leagues and leagues around Malaga.

## THE MIDNIGHT SKY AT LONDON.

OCTOBER.

BY EDWIN DUNKIN, F.R.A.S., ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

PERHAPS one of our first practical lessons in sidereal astronomy consists in noticing that peculiar apparent motion in stellar objects, so evident on a brilliant starlight night in winter, known as the twinkling or scintillation of the stars. This phenomenon, with which most of our readers have been acquainted from early youth, by the nursery rhyme, "Twinkle, twinkle, little star," has occupied the attention of scientific men for a long period, among others, Aristotle, Ptolemy, Tycho Brahé, Galileo, Kepler, Hooke, Newton, Young, and Arago. To the unassisted eye, it consists of very rapid changes in the intensity of the lustre of the stars. These changes are also frequently accompanied by corresponding variations in colour, observations of which have been recorded by more than one astronomer. Forster, in 1824, not only noticed the variability of colour, but he endeavoured to obtain an idea of the law by which the changes took place.

One of the popular notions by which we distinguish a planet, consists in the comparative absence of any scintillation of its light, which consequently shines with a much more steady lustre than that of the fixed stars. But twinkling is not always a sure distinction between the light of the fixed stars and planets, for, in certain conditions of the atmosphere, the latter have been known to scintillate more or less, and the phenomenon is also much more observable in the fixed stars on some nights

than on others. Many writers have given explanations of the cause of twinkling, each differing in some respects from the others, and even at the present time differences of opinion exist. Some have accounted for the phenomenon by the undulatory theory of light, by which the direct rays from the star reach the eye at regular and successive intervals of time, causing the object alternately to appear and disappear. But M. Arago considered that the scintillation of the stars is nothing more than a rapid change in their intensity and colour originating in our atmosphere, in which the progress of the stellar rays is interfered with by the unequal heating, density, or humidity of the different strata. The principal cause of the scintillation may be supposed to arise, therefore, from the unequal refraction, or bending, of the rays of light as they pass through aerial currents of different temperatures and densities. That this is so, is evident from the variability of stellar twinkling depending on the distance of the stars from the horizon. For example, it is generally much more visible in stars at a low altitude, where the density of the atmosphere is always the greatest, while its minimum effect exists in the zenith, where the least density prevails. This law of twinkling, according to the altitude of the object, is not, however, universal, for several of the principal fixed stars, on account of the nature and peculiarity of their own light, vary considerably in the intensity of their scintillations independently of their position in the heavens. Procyon and Arcturus are known to twinkle much less than Vega, the brilliant bluish-white star in Lyra. Kaemtz states that "planets scintillate less than stars, because as the latter appear to us as points, the least displacement, were it only a few seconds, would be sensible to our eye. The planets, having a visible disk, it is more difficult to appreciate their apparent change in volume; however, through telescopes we frequently see the edges scintillate, especially if they are near the horizon." Aristotle curiously explained the phenomenon as the result of a mere strain of the eye, for he says "the fixed stars sparkle, but not the planets; for the latter are so near, that the eye is able to reach them; but in looking at the fixed stars the eye acquires a tremulous motion owing to the distance and the effort." M. Wolf, Astronomer at the Imperial Observatory of Paris, has lately made some observations of the spectra of the stars at a time when the scintillation appeared very great. He has noticed on these occasions several series of broad bands pass from one end of the continuous spectrum to the other, which apparently confirms the changing colour of the stars, according to the theory of M. Arago.

M. Dufour, who made an extensive series of observations on stellar twinkling at Morges, Switzerland, has found that the phenomenon varies frequently from one day to another. But it increases or diminishes proportionally for all the stars, excepting those near the horizon, where the twinkling is always large. It has also been observed to increase during the time of twilight, and when clouds are in the sky driven rapidly before the wind. During those nights in which the scintillation was very marked, M. Dufour noticed that the stars in all directions, including the zenith, were affected; but on nights when the phenomenon was less decided, all the zenithal objects shone steadily. In tropical countries, scintillation is but seldom observed in stars at a high elevation above the horizon, and then only to a very limited extent. Humboldt remarks that in Peru stars scintillate when near the horizon, but not at more than twenty degrees above it. Garcin, in a letter to M. Reaumur, published in the "Histoire de

L'Academie des Sciences, 1743," states that "in Arabia, in spring, summer, and autumn, the inhabitants sleep on the roofs of their houses. It is impossible to describe the pleasure experienced in contemplating the beauty of the sky, the brightness of the stars, and their apparent motion from east to west, while thus lying in the open air. The light of the stars is pure, steady, and brilliant; and it is only in the middle of winter that a slight degree of scintillation is observed."

Stars of the first magnitude twinkle much more than those of the second, while in the smallest stars visible

elevated station of 10,702 feet, although to a much smaller extent than at the foot of the mountain. Dr. Tyndall noticed in 1859, from the Grands Mulets, on Mont Blanc, at an altitude of nearly twelve thousand feet, that when Capella first appeared near the horizon on the evening of August 13, the star scintillated very distinctly, but that at 2 A.M. on the morning of the 14th, the twinkling was scarcely perceptible. From this observation of Dr. Tyndall, we may conclude that, when viewed from the summit of Mont Blanc, the stars shine with a steady light. During a residence at the hospice of St. Bernard in the summer of 1856, M. Dufour also found that the scintillation was very trifling. Whether this absence of the phenomenon at such great elevations occurs at other seasons of the year, we have no recorded observations to show.

The occasional twinkling of the planets consists only of a slight tremulous motion of their disks when near the horizon. It has been noticed principally in Mercury, Venus, and Mars. But in such cases, the phenomenon is so difficult to observe, that practically it may be concluded that, to the naked eye, any displacement resulting from it is too minute to be perceived by any but practised observers.

At midnight in October, the eastern and south-eastern sky is becoming enriched by some of the most conspicuous constellations, including Orion, Taurus, and Gemini, but, excepting Taurus, they are outside the limit of the diagrams. Andromeda, Perseus, and Cassiopeia, now meet in the zenith, near which several important stars are visible. Let our attention be first directed to the lower or south diagram. The stars situated a few degrees east of the zenith belong to Perseus; Algol, or Beta Persei, in Medusa's head, being near the south edge of the Milky Way. Proceeding downwards towards the eastern horizon, or the upper part of the left-hand side of the diagram, we pass over the eastern corner of Taurus, and the second star in that constellation, Nath, or Beta Tauri. East of this star, but too near the horizon to be included in the diagram, several stars in Gemini and Canis Minor are visible. Procyon having just risen due east. Confining ourselves to this portion of the heavens for the present, or rather in an E.S.E. direction, the splendid group of first and second magnitude stars in Orion, which add so much lustre to the winter sky of the northern hemisphere, can be seen without any special instruction. Between Algol and Orion, but nearer the latter, Aldebaran and its companion stars, the Hyades, are easily recognised. A line drawn from the zenith through Algol to the three stars in the belt of Orion, passes through the Hyades. The universally-known Pleiades group can be seen to the right of Aldebaran. In the south-east, most of the sky is occupied by Eridanus, an extensive constellation, but as it contains no star greater than the third magnitude visible at London, this portion of the heavens appears bare in comparison with that to which we have just drawn the reader's attention. Eridanus extends from near Rigel, the south-west star in the quadrilateral of Orion, to within a few degrees of the south meridian near the horizon.

The following constellations are now on or near the south meridian, beginning at the zenith: Andromeda, Triangulum, Pisces, Aries, Cetus, and Sculptor, the last mentioned being in the horizon. Although there are but few large stars now on the meridian, those belonging to the separate constellations can be pointed out easily in the diagram, if we recollect that a line drawn from the zenith through the exact centre as far as the south



INDEX-MAP, LOOKING NORTH, OCTOBER 15.

to the unassisted eye, the scintillation is altogether inappreciable. In the magnificent cold starlight nights of winter, this tremulous motion of the fixed stars creates an erroneous impression of their number. We are led to suppose, from their flickering in all directions, that we perceive more luminous points than the eye is really capable of distinguishing at any one time. Hence the popular surprise when informed that all the visible stars on the clearest of nights amount to less than two thousand.

Observations on the scintillation of the stars have been made by several observers in elevated positions on the earth's surface, especially by Saussure in the



INDEX-MAP, LOOKING SOUTH, OCTOBER 15.

mountainous districts of Switzerland, and Professor C. Piazzi Smyth on the Peak of Teneriffe. At the latter place, Professor Smyth was much struck by the quiet and steady planetary light of the stars, and was inclined at first to believe that there was no scintillation; but he soon found that this phenomenon even existed at his



# THE MIDNIGHT SKY AT LONDON.

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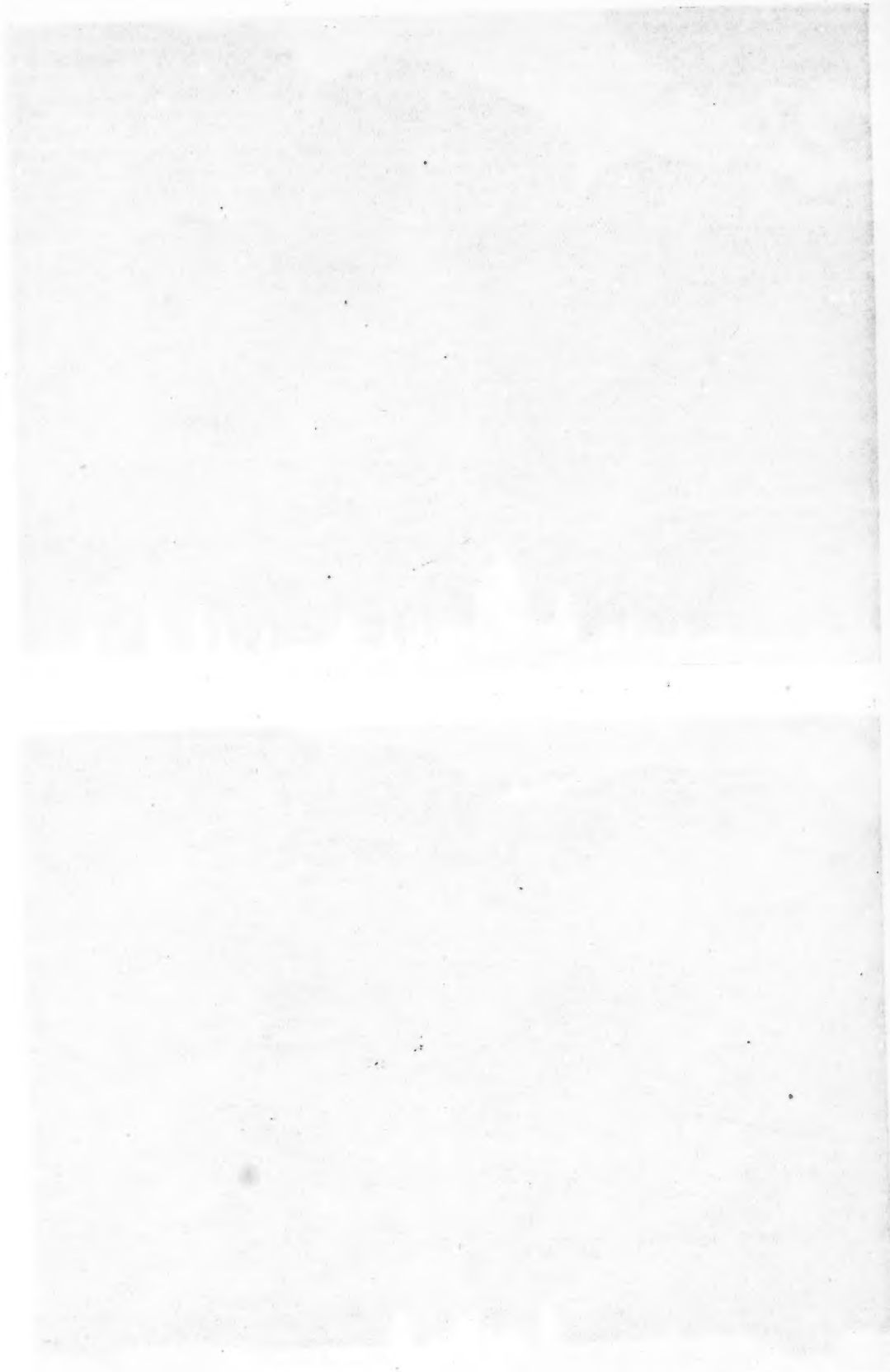
THE MIDNIGHT SKY AT LONDON, LOOKING NORTH, OCTOBER 15.

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THE MIDNIGHT SKY AT LONDON, LOOKING SOUTH, OCTOBER 15.



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horizon, will represent the corresponding position of the celestial meridian, looking south. Not very far from the zenith, a star rather brighter than those near, and slightly left of the meridian line, is Gamma Andromedæ, a beautiful triple star. One to the right of the meridian is Mirach, or Beta Andromedæ. A little lower, above two conspicuous stars, Alpha Trianguli can be noticed, the two large stars being respectively Alpha and Beta Arietis. To the right of these, a line of small stars in Pisces may be seen, marking the position of the two fishes and their connecting ribbon. Below Pisces a few stars of the third and fourth magnitudes belong to Cetus.

West of the meridian, the principal constellations above the horizon at midnight are Pegasus, Equuleus, Pisces, Aquarius, and portions of Andromeda, Cetus, and Sculptor. The chief stars on this side of the meridian are those in Andromeda and Pegasus. That near the zenith, a little to the right of the meridian, we have already pointed out as Beta Andromedæ. Between it and Alpherat, is Delta Andromedæ, of the third magnitude. The stars composing the celebrated square of Pegasus have been explained in preceding months; it is enough, therefore, to say at present, that Alpherat, or Alpha Andromedæ, is the nearest of the four to the zenith, Beta Pegasi is in the north-western corner of the square, Alpha Pegasi, or Markab, in the south-western, and Gamma Pegasi in the south-eastern. A tolerably bright star to the right of the square, and nearly at the limit of the diagram, is Epsilon Pegasi. That south-west of Markab is Zeta Pegasi, and in the same direction two others near the right-hand limit of the diagram, are Gamma and Alpha Aquarii. The only object of large magnitude south of these stars, Jupiter excepted, is Beta Ceti, which may be noticed towards the lower part of the diagram on the right-hand side of the meridian. Jupiter, as in last month, is in the constellation Pisces; he is the most brilliant object now above the horizon.

Pisces, the Fishes, is the twelfth and last of the zodiacal signs, and one of the original forty-eight asterisms of the ancients. It is represented on celestial globes and maps as two fishes widely separated from each other, with their tails joined together by a long ribbon or string. This constellation occupies a considerable space in the heavens, one of the fishes being situated under the right arm of Andromeda, and the other under the wing of Pegasus. A good guide to the position of the two fishes may be obtained by reference to the four stars in the square of Pegasus, a line drawn from Alpherat to Gamma Pegasi being parallel to the body of one fish, while another line from Gamma Pegasi to Markab is likewise parallel to the other fish. Pisces is bounded by Andromeda on the north, by Aries and Triangulum on the east, by Cetus on the south, and by Aquarius and Pegasus on the west. Alpha Piscium, of the third and a half magnitude, is a close double star, and the largest in this constellation. The colours of the two components of this beautiful object are a pale green and blue. About forty stars are visible to the naked eye in Pisces, of which Ptolemy recorded the approximate positions of thirty-eight. Bode's Atlas contains two hundred and fifty-seven. In addition to Alpha Piscium, there are several double stars included within the boundaries of Pisces, but although some of them are of an interesting character, there is nothing unusually remarkable in their appearance or history to require any special notice.

Owing to the retrogression of the equinoxes, that point of the heavens intersected by the celestial equator and ecliptic at the vernal equinox, and which in ancient

times was situated in Aries, is now a considerable distance west of that constellation. It is really far advanced in Pisces, which is strictly the first sign in the zodiac of the present age. However, astronomers, for the sake of uniformity, still retain the technical name, "the first point of Aries," by which this zero-point has been for ages known. It is not likely that the order of the zodiacal signs, commencing with Aries, will be disturbed for a similar reason, notwithstanding that Pisces is the habitation of the sun at the beginning of his annual course.

Andromeda is situated in a favourable position for observation in the latitude of London, where that portion of the constellation nearest the pole never sets, the remainder being also above the horizon during a considerable part of the year. In celestial maps, the figure of Andromeda is placed near those of her father, mother, and lover, Cepheus, Cassiopeia, and Perseus. She is represented in the bonds, which, according to the heathen mythology, she carried with her to the stars. Pegasus and Lacerta are on the west of Andromeda, Pisces on the south, Cepheus on the north-west, Cassiopeia on the north, and Perseus and Triangulum on the east. There are two hundred and twenty-six stars in Andromeda catalogued by Bode, about thirty of which are clearly visible to the naked eye. The principal star of this constellation is Alpherat, or Alpha Andromedæ, in the lady's head, and in the north-east corner of the square of Pegasus. This object heads the list of standard stars in the Nautical Almanac, whose accurate right ascensions and declinations are given for every ten days throughout the year, to be used for delicate astronomical purposes. The second star in magnitude is Beta Andromedæ, or Mirach, formerly placed by the Arabian astronomers in the northern fish's head. Mirach is of the second magnitude, and of a fine yellow colour. Delta Andromedæ is about midway between the two chief stars Alpherat and Mirach. The situation of the latter star can be pointed out by drawing a line from Alpha Ceti, or Menkar, through the two bright stars in Aries. Or if we follow the directions of the poet, its position in the sky will be very evident, Markab being the south-west star in the square of Pegasus.

"From Markab run a line beneath th' imprison'd lady's head,  
And over Delta on her back to Mirach 'twill be led."

Gamma Andromedæ is a beautiful triple star in the lady's ankle, and is a very favourite object for amateur observation. This star was first seen double by C. Mayer, in 1778. The principal component is of the third magnitude, and of an orange-yellow colour, while the smaller one is between the fifth and sixth magnitudes, and of a bluish colour. In 1842, M. Struve, of the Pulkowa Observatory, announced that with his large equatorial he found that the smaller component actually consisted of two stars. This discovery has since been verified by other astronomers, and this object is now looked upon as one of the severest tests of the penetrating power of an astronomical telescope. It requires, however, one with an object-glass of a large aperture to be able to separate the smaller star into two.

Cassiopeia is now situated near the zenith, its principal stars having just passed the meridian. In the diagram of the north sky they are near the upper boundary line, forming some resemblance to an antique chair, of which the lower portion is composed of Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and a smaller star, Kappa. Beta is the most westerly of all, and Alpha the most southerly. To see Cassiopeia in the heavens at midnight in October, the observer's face being directed towards the north,



it is best to find first the position of the polar star, and then gradually to look upwards, almost to a point overhead. Between Polaris and Cassiopeia, there are no objects of sufficient magnitude to attract attention, excepting perhaps Gamma Cephei, which would be almost touched by a line drawn from Beta Cassiopeia to Polaris. In the north-western quadrant of the sky, several stars of large magnitude are visible in different directions, including Vega, Altair, and Deneb. From the zenith to the north-western horizon, we pass through Cassiopeia, Cepheus, Cygnus, Draco, Lyra, and Hercules. Looking due west, or along the upper boundary line of the diagram, there is no star sufficiently bright to notice especially, but towards the W.N.W., following the course of the Milky Way, several stars in Cygnus may be pointed out. The first is Deneb, or Alpha Cygni. That west, or to the left of Deneb, is Gamma Cygni, in the Milky Way. In the other arm of the Milky Way Epsilon Cygni may be seen. Zeta and Delta are apparently above and below the Milky Way respectively. North of Cygnus, the position of Lyra can be recognised by Vega, and the two neighbouring stars, Beta and Gamma Lyrae. To the right of Vega, and near the north meridian, Gamma and Beta Draconis are conspicuous, and below these several stars in Hercules are near the horizon. Below Cassiopeia, and between Cygnus and the meridian, Cepheus is situated. The two principal stars in Cepheus can be found by drawing a line from Alpha Cygni to Polaris, Alpha Cephei being the nearer one to Cygnus. All the chief stars in Ursa Minor are now to be found between Polaris and the north horizon. Kocab and Gamma Ursa Minoris at one end, and Polaris at the other, define the extent of this small but important constellation. Between Kocab and the horizon, the sky is occupied by portions of Draco and Boötes. Alkaid, the last star in Ursa Major, is exactly on the meridian.

East of the meridian the principal stars above the horizon are Capella, Castor, Pollux, and those in Ursa Major. In addition to these the planet Mars is a bright object north of east, about six degrees above the horizon. With the exception of Ursa Major, all the chief stars in this quarter of the sky are in E.N.E., and mostly in Perseus, Auriga, and Gemini. These three constellations are now partly in the northern, and partly in the southern half of the sky. Due east from the zenith, the nearest large star is Alpha Persei. The next conspicuous object is Capella, followed by Beta Aurigae, and below these Castor and Pollux may be easily recognised in the heavens, Castor being the upper star of the two.

Perseus is principally a northern constellation, and for the most part circumpolar. It is one of the forty-eight asterisms of the ancients, and is situated in a very conspicuous part of the Milky Way, directly north of the Pleiades. Its chief stars are Alpha Persei, sometimes called Mirfak, and Beta Persei, or Algol. The latter is one of the most remarkable of the variable, or periodic, stars. The variation in lustre of this star was first noticed by Montanari in the seventeenth century, but its periodicity was first accurately determined in 1782 by Goodricke. Algol varies in magnitude from the second to the fourth in about three and a half hours, and back again to the second in the same interval of time. It continues at its greatest lustre during the remainder of its period, which has been ascertained to be about two days, twenty hours, and forty-nine minutes. Perseus contains several interesting stellar objects, one of which in his right-hand we give as an illustration. This beautiful cluster is scarcely visible to the naked eye,

even as a single star, but when viewed through a good telescope it exhibits a brilliant mass of stars, varying from the seventh to the fifteenth magnitudes. While gazing on this superb telescopic object we can well realise the poet's description of—

"Some sequestered star  
That rolls in its Creator's beams afar,  
Unseen by man; till telescopic eye,  
Sounding the blue abyasses of the sky,  
Draws forth its hidden beauty into light,  
And adds a jewel to the crown of night."



STAR CLUSTER IN PERSEUS.

In this beautiful cluster, the central group resembles a coronet, or rather an ellipse of small stars. The comparatively bright star to the right in the diagram is of the seventh magnitude. Sir William Herschel considered that this cluster, and another which follows it closely, belong to the Milky Way, in which they are situated. These two clusters are perfectly disconnected from each other, although the outlying stars in each can be brought into the field of view of a telescope at the same time. On very clear nights in winter they form, when taken together, one of the most interesting telescopic objects in the heavens. The writer recollects the great delight he felt when he was first shown these clusters, at a time when such objects were novel to him, and although thirty years of official experience have passed away since then, the impression on his memory of this first view of these gorgeous groups has never been effaced.

Our diagrams for October 15, with the accompanying descriptions, will be useful for the examination of the heavens on August 15 at 4 A.M., on September 15 at 2 A.M., on November 15 at 10 P.M., on December 15 at 8 P.M., and on January 15 at 6 P.M.

In October, 1868, Mercury is too near the sun to be observed favourably. He sets shortly after the sun during the month, and cannot therefore be seen with the naked eye.—Venus is still the principal morning star, rising on the 1st at 1.43 A.M., on the 15th at 2.10 A.M., and on the 31st at 2.45 A.M. On the 12th, in the afternoon, she will be in conjunction with the moon, behind which, by the aid of a telescope, she may be observed to disappear at 3.2 P.M. She will be rather near the W.N.W. horizon at the time, and before she emerges from the opposite side of the moon, both objects will have set. During the morning hours, before sunrise, Venus may be recognised due east.—Mars is also a conspicuous morning star in October, but there is no fear of any one mistaking him for Venus, Mars having a decided ruddy tinge, while Venus is a brilliant white. Mars rises on the 1st at 11.24 P.M., and on 31st at 10.55 P.M.—Jupiter rises on the 1st at 5.36 P.M., on the 15th

at 4.39 P.M., and on the 31st at 3.32 P.M. He is consequently now very favourably situated for observation, and is a beautiful evening telescopic object, with his four attendant moons. Jupiter is above the horizon all night at the beginning of the month, but at the end he disappears below it nearly three hours before sunrise.—Saturn can only be seen during this month in the south-west, as an early evening star, for an hour or two after sunset. He sets on the 1st at 7.41 P.M., and on the 31st at 5.52 P.M.—Both Uranus and Neptune can be observed as telescopic objects in October throughout the night.

The moon will be only a short distance from Jupiter on the evening of the 1st. On the 5th she will be near the Pleiades, and on the morning of the 6th near Aldebaran. On the 10th she will be in conjunction with Mars, and on the morning of the 12th Venus, Regulus, and the moon will be near each other. On the 28th, during the evening, the moon will be again near Jupiter at 8 P.M., when they will only be separated by about two degrees. At this time both objects are in the constellation Pisces.

The principal lunar phases are as follows:—Full moon on the 1st, at 7.58 P.M.; last quarter on the 9th, at 6.13 A.M.; new moon on the 15th, at 11.1 P.M.; first quarter on the 23rd, at 9.42 A.M.; and full moon, for the second time this month, on the 31st, at 11.5 A.M. The moon is nearest to the earth, or in perigee, on the 13th, and most distant, or in apogee, on the 25th.

## LIFE IN JAPAN.

### VIII.—AMUSEMENTS.

The public amusements of the Japanese are nearly as varied as those of more western nations. Dramatic representations, including equestrian performances, wrestling matches, feats of skill and strength, rope-dancing, conjuring, etc., afford them entertainment.

There is no desire to shorten the enjoyment of theatrical displays, neither are they reserved for the evening time. A large square, or horseshoe-shaped space, is surrounded by temporary erections of two storeys. The upper one is reached from the outside, and partitions are set up at regular distances: each of these boxes will contain a family, and may be hired by the day or week. The enclosure is open to the sky, and the stage extends along the whole of one side. The audience are summoned by the sound of a rattle (which is sometimes continued for two or three hours). They are in the habit of providing themselves with provisions and refreshments; and a whole day can be passed quietly in witnessing the performances, which are sometimes of a soothing, sometimes of a rousing, character. Scenes of love and hatred, revenge and retribution, form the subject of their dramas. Male and female performers act the parts. Comedy does not enter largely into these compositions; but single combats are frequent, and seem to be much appreciated by the lookers-on. Their history, which has been of a most varied and striking character, furnishes them with numberless plots, and love, jealousy, and murder, supply the usual quota of domestic incidents. In some of the representations several plays are carried on alternately, that is, the first act of number two succeeds the first act of number one, and number three that of number two, and then the second and following acts of the three plays are performed in similar order; thus spectators can choose which piece they will follow, and in the intervals they may retire and attend to their business or pleasure.

At some of the theatres the performers pass through the midst of the audience to reach the stage, in order to familiarize them with the dress of the part they are acting, as the great object of a Japanese actor is to represent as many different characters in the same piece as possible. There are seldom more than two or three personages on the stage at one time, so this can be effected without much difficulty.

Occasionally the performance is so natural that the tragic episodes exercise great effect upon the more susceptible of the audience, and tears are freely shed when the hero of the piece, who ought to wed the fair heroine, falls a victim to the sword, or is secretly poisoned by a rival; but, as a rule, the performance goes smoothly on without much demonstration of feeling on the part of those who are present. In fact, the length of time through which these performances continue prevents any excessive outburst of emotion, as it would be impossible to keep the feelings harrowed and sympathy excited for a week or so on account of the woes of those who are palpably acting their parts; for the broad daylight which shines around, and the absence of accessories in the shape of scenery and lights, renders the task of a Japanese actor a particularly difficult one. Gorgeous dresses of silk and satin are worn, both the materials and colours being much richer than those which are in common use.

Besides set theatres, with a regular *corps dramatique*, itinerant performers are met with in the streets, who represent shorter plays and scenes. Both women and men in these small companies have their faces hideously coloured with red and white paint. Their dresses are poor, compared with those of the superior class of actors. They soon gather a large crowd around them in the busy streets, and seated or standing on mats and cushions, they recite their parts and enact the scenes in the open air, the spectators throwing down a few cash or a tempo when the performance is concluded.

The equestrian performances are rather plays on horseback than scenes in the circle, and consist of mounted actors, who ride in and out gesticulating, fighting, and going through mimic combats, while managing their wild-looking steeds on the wooden platform; a great clatter ensues, but the results are by no means terrific. In an exhibition of this nature, witnessed at Nagasaki, the only feat worthy of note performed by the horses was the ascent and descent of a somewhat steep wooden staircase; but as all travellers in Japan are constantly passing up and down stone steps when mounting the hill-sides and visiting the temples, such a performance was by no means extraordinary.

Japanese jugglers deserve a special mention from the great dexterity they exhibit in some elegant and surprising feats of skill. Nothing can be prettier in that way than the celebrated butterfly trick. A conjuror twists a piece of thin paper into the shape of a butterfly with outstretched wings; he then places it on his fan, and with a slight movement launches it into the air, where it flutters about, now settling on the edge of the fan, whose gentle motion regulates its movements, now flying high in the air, and then once more hovering over the fan with all the fitful gracefulness of a live insect. A second fan is sometimes brought into requisition, and the butterfly passes from one to the other, or flies away seemingly directed alone by its own will; the illusion is rendered still more perfect when another butterfly joins its companion, and the two together flutter about, hovering over a bunch of flowers, which the conjuror holds in one hand, seemingly sipping their sweets as they rest for a few seconds on the coloured petals, and

then dance away again on their airy flight. A teapot is held out, and the butterflies quit the bright flowers and rest on its rim; then they fly inside, as if anxious to explore the dark interior, and are lost to sight for a few seconds; but they soon emerge and flutter about more gaily than ever, glad, it would seem, to regain the light and liberty. One experiences a feeling of regret when the pretty graceful butterflies are at length ruthlessly caught and torn to pieces, so completely do they seem animated creatures, and not mere toys.

Top-spinning is also carried to perfection in Japan. The tops are of various sizes and shapes, chiefly that of a brightly painted wooden cylinder, pierced by a small round metal axis, on which the cylinder moves freely. Others are more like umbrellas, but nearly all can be made to revolve in extraordinary places. For instance, a top is set spinning along the edge of a sharp sword, on a slender piece of twine, or up an ascent and into the interior of a box, where it strikes a certain number of bells and then emerges at an open door, still spinning as fast as when it commenced its curious journey. It is well to mention, as another peculiarity of Japanese top-spinning, that this journey is made on the side of the cylinder, and not on the point of the axle. Family—or, as they are sometimes called, hen and chicken—tops are also common. A large top contains a number of small ones, and while the large one revolves these pop out one after the other, and commence spinning around the parent top, which is soon surrounded by a number of small ones, all turning so rapidly that the eye can scarcely see them move.

The tops vary in size from three inches to three feet in circumference; sometimes a large top is, as it were, wound up to such a degree that the sides of smaller tops are applied to its side, and the momentum thus acquired is sufficient to set them spinning at once. From time to time the performers wipe their hands on their paper pocket-handkerchiefs, so that no moisture may impede the perfect action of the top. The top is removed from place to place with the greatest freedom, the equilibrium being maintained, whether it is spinning on the point of a bamboo or on the surface of a flat table.

Birds are trained to play many tricks; to select cards, pull up small buckets, carry weapons, and run up ladders, open doors, etc. The clever little performers hop about with a well-satisfied air, and are rewarded for a successful trick by the present of a hemp seed. When going through their mimic labours they are quite at liberty, and have the full use of their wings, but do not attempt to escape, and seem perfectly under the control of their trainer, who, with his assistant, carries the cages and apparatus from village to village, stopping at the country houses of the better classes, and at the residential parts of the temples, where he exhibits his little companions' skill to the admiring eyes of the ladies of the establishment. There is a serious gravity of demeanour about these exhibitors, when, seated on their heels, and dressed in dark silk garments, they direct the movements of the birds, which renders these performances far more picturesque than similar ones in England.

Some of the balancing is also very extraordinary. The Imperial Japanese troupe, at present exhibiting in this country, give examples of these efforts of skill and strength. Some of them are in the highest degree sensational; yet but few persons feel alarmed at these exhibitions, so calmly do the performers go through their evolutions, and each one manifests such perfect confidence in the address and skill of the others. It is also a feature of Japanese exhibitions, that

a number of assistants are always at hand, dressed in handsome garments, who stand about in picturesque groups, and, while adding to the general effect of the scene, are prepared to act should an emergency arise. Sensational as many of our exhibitions are, they are equalled by those of the Japanese rope-dancers, bamboo-climbers, and acrobats, who appear to have learnt from the monkeys the art of ascending upright poles, and of clinging by the toes and hands to the smoothest surfaces; and while the performer is in a position which to an ordinary person would be one of the greatest danger to life and limb, he calmly draws out his fan from his girdle and begins to fan himself, regarding the spectators below with a self-complacent and nonchalant air. A juggler lies on his back and balances a huge tub on his feet, and puts it through a variety of evolutions; a number of buckets are placed under it in succession, and raise it to a considerable height; after balancing these for a short time, first on one foot and then on the other, he kicks away the small buckets, and catches the large tub upon his feet. A boy sometimes is introduced, and takes the place of the large tub.

Musicians, either male or female, accompany these exhibitions with their tinkling guitars and sharp-toned flutes. Feats of posturing and agility are also performed, and boys, whose vertebral columns must resemble india-rubber, put their heads between their legs, double themselves up, and walk in the most crab-like fashion; and when two of them are gambolling together, it is difficult to distinguish to which individual the respective heads and limbs belong. Some street mountebanks dress themselves up in a feathery head gear, or draw over their heads a mask, which makes them resemble frogs, whose movements they imitate.

#### WRESTLERS.

The Japanese differ from the Chinese and Hindoos in the value they attach to athletic games, and wrestling is the national sport. Wrestling matches are therefore amongst the most popular exhibitions.

Each Daimio has a number of professional wrestlers attached to his establishment, who, like the gladiators of old, devote their existence to trials of strength. These men are remarkable for their muscular development, and they take a great pride in the size and strength of their limbs. They are attended by servants, who wait upon them, hand them their fans, and dress and undress them, for when they engage in wrestling they are all but perfectly naked; but this is not remarkable in a country where the men of the lower or working classes throw off their loose garments the moment they have any extra work to perform. Wrestling is not reserved for the professionals, but nearly all Japanese men exercise themselves in it, and when the labours of the day are concluded, arrange matches amongst themselves. A circle is formed, the spectators squatting on their heels, and two antagonists step into the ring. First they assume the national attitude of sitting on their heels, then they each take up a handful of earth and cast it over their shoulders, and watch each other like two cats, intent upon a spring. Several feints are generally made before an opportunity arises of seizing each other. The great object of each one seems to be to throw his opponent over his head; and when a skilled wrestler encounters a novice, this is quickly done; in other cases, the contest continues for some time, the wrestlers exerting their utmost strength, and entwining their limbs round each other in their efforts to throw one another. But no ill-feeling seems engendered, and there



are no spiteful blows or savage looks, but the conquered and the conqueror part in perfect good temper. A succession of antagonists enter the circle, until all have exhibited their prowess or tried their strength. It is not alone at matches that they thus exercise themselves. If two coolies meet who have nothing particular to do, they may be seen striving with one another; and in default of a living antagonist, a strong young sapling has been seen to serve as a substitute, the wrestler putting forth all his strength and pushing against the tree, as if endeavouring to overturn it. This national characteristic is doubtless an indication of the greater vigour of mind and body possessed by the Japanese, and which causes them to present a strong contrast to the more enervating forms of ancient civilization met with in Asiatic communities.

## MY FIRST CURACY.

### CHAPTER XI.—SOME SPECIAL CASES.

THERE exists no parochial clergyman but has met with cases of peculiar interest in the course of his ministrations. I will endeavour to relate in this chapter one or two of the most interesting cases that fell under my immediate notice in my first curacy.

In a former part of my narrative I have alluded to three burials in one family. The case was as follows. Abraham Adams had been a tradesman from early manhood in one of our neighbouring towns; indeed he succeeded his father in his business, that of a tailor, and at one time was well-to-do in circumstances. But when he was about thirty years old, the hereditary disease of his family, consumption, attacked him; it had previously carried off several of his relatives. He strove against its insidious progress as long as he was able, but was soon obliged to relinquish an active share in the management of his business. This declined, and the foreman robbed him, and absconded with so much ready money, that Adams was made a bankrupt. The family honourably paid all their debts, but when this was done, very little, in fact only a few pounds, remained to them. They gathered all together, and took a lodging in a poorer part of the town. Here Adams became rapidly worse, and as the only means of saving his life, the surgeon who attended him ordered him into the country. Hopes were created which were only raised to be blighted, for when he arrived at our village, I saw upon my first visit that there was not the slightest chance of his recovery. He was extremely patient under his trying affliction, but he did not live long after he came into the parish. On the particulars of his illness and my repeated visits I will not dwell, though to me, as a clergyman, they were gratifying and hopeful.

One remarkable and sad coincidence occurred at this trying period. Adams's two sons caught scarlet fever, and it was so violent in its attack that they both died on the morning of the fifth day after they were taken ill. The same evening their father died. Thus was the poor wife bereft of her husband and two sons in one day.

But a worse personal calamity also quickly befel Mary Adams. Her eyesight had been rather defective for some time; indeed, during her husband's illness she had rather overstrained it by taking in a little needlework, so she told me, in the town where she had lived. But now, from excessive grief at her triple loss, and from anxiety of mind with regard to the future, in six weeks time from the death of her husband and children she became totally blind, and when I left the parish she

remained in that sad state without the slightest hope of restoration.

The father and two sons were buried on the same day, and the overflowing congregation testified to the deep sympathy excited by the sad events. We succeeded in raising a sum of money for the widow, as the distressing nature of her affliction created sympathy on every side. With the money she purchased a mangle, and was promised the linen belonging to many families; she was only able to turn the handle of the mangle, while her little girl, the only child left, laid the linen straight within the rollers.

It was a saddening sight, and also pitiful, though comforting in another view, to see the eagerness with which this woman tried to learn the raised letters of Moon's type for the blind. How very quickly she learnt to master the difficulty! Perhaps this arose partly from the fact that she had been a pretty good scholar in her earlier years; but, however this may have been, certainly God does seem, when he deprives any of his creatures of one sense, to sharpen and strengthen the powers of those remaining. Very regularly was the widow to be seen in her wonted place in the house of God, led by her little daughter; and I know that it often caused a feeling of shame in the minds of other people, to behold her peaceful resigned expression of countenance, knowing how light their own trials were compared with hers.

I have previously stated that the wages of an agricultural labourer in this part of Devonshire were very low, compared with those of other counties. But the smallness of the pay of the farm-labourer was distanced by the poverty of the needlewomen in the district.

A manufacturer in the nearest town contracted very largely with Government for shirts for the army and navy, and these he was accustomed to have made by the women living in the villages surrounding his warehouse. But he paid these women very badly, and must have made a very large profit from his different contracts. Two old women in my district had been employed by him for many years. But after all, what was their remuneration? Threepence-halfpenny a shirt, in which they had to work six button-holes, and to find their own needles and thread!

One of the poor old creatures informed me that she had been engaged in this kind of shirt-making for ten years; that when she had mastered the little difficulties which have to be encountered at first learning any trade, her fingers were so nimble that she could regularly make three shirts a day, which were all able to bear the severe strain of the "approver and weigher;" but now that she was getting old, and her fingers stiffening with rheumatism, she could only with difficulty make one shirt during the day.

I could tell even of worse things than this, for I really found some of our women engaged upon coarser shirts for a French house, receiving the mere pittance of twopence halfpenny each shirt, working four button-holes in each, and finding their own needles and cotton! Surely Hood's poem was no fable.

Another case I have to report which was painfully interesting. I was called upon, in the vicar's absence, to go immediately and visit a man said to be dying in one of our most remote hamlets. With a little difficulty I found my way to the house I was in search of, if it was allowable to apply such a term to a building consisting of a mere decayed heap of "cob," with the thatch off in many places, and with large stones placed on the remaining portion to keep it from being entirely blown away. A broken gate and neglected strip of ground led to this dilapidated-looking dwelling. Two noisy

and rather savage dogs made their appearance at my approach, and I was obliged to shout out for them to be tied up before they would allow me to come nearer to the house. I have a legitimate horror of Devonshire dogs, having been bitten by them no less than six times in the space of five years. When at last I succeeded in entering the cottage—and even to effect this I had to step over a couple of puddles of dirty water, a potato-skin heap, and another of peat ashes—I found that the interior was even in a worse condition than the badness of the outside could have prepared me for. Filth of every description lay scraped into little heaps on the floor, which having been deprived of its tiles, presented an uneven appearance. In the midst of all this dirt was a truckle bedstead; there was an old mattress on it, but no blankets, and the sheets were entirely in holes. On this bed was the object of my visit. As he lay there, I should have said he was probably about fifty or fifty-five years of age, though I afterwards found that he was much younger. He was, or rather had been, exceedingly handsome; he possessed most regular features, curly black hair and beard, the latter at the period of my visit tinged with grey. He presented a marked contrast to his female companion and attendant, whom the neighbours called his wife. She was coarse, common, and bloated, from her constant drinking habits. I found that the man was in the last stage of consumption. My visit on this occasion was very short, as the atmosphere of the room was more than I could bear; besides which, I found out that the man was very deaf, and as I had to approach close to the bed in order to make him at all sensible of what I was saying, I had to keep a strict watch, lest the innumerable vermin which crawled about in all directions should be attracted to myself as fresher prey.

The next day I repeated my visit, for I was anxious to make some faint impression upon the man who I thought would not have lasted many days, though he actually lingered for nearly a month.

I made inquiries if he had no relatives who could come and see to his wants, or at least send some assistance, as he evidently stood in need of the common necessities of life, and even of common decencies also. The woman told me the sick man had a sister, and that she had written for her to come immediately, and, added she, "she is a perfect lady." I was somewhat surprised to hear this statement, but the man's features and manner showed plainly enough that he was not of the lower orders of society.

On the day of my third visit the sister arrived, and very thankful indeed I was to see her there, for she had brought a large supply of things with her, and immediately had clean bed-linen supplied, and sent off to the nearest town to procure blankets and other necessities. Her brother was too far advanced in his illness to be removed to better lodgings, even if they could have been obtained. His sister told me his history.

"The name he now bears," she said, "is not his own, he has borrowed it from the woman with whom he lives. His father was a colonel in the army, his mother was the daughter of an Irish Earl. His godfathers were a peer of the realm and a baronet. His brothers, three of them in number, died early in life as officers in the army, cut off by the same disease which is now approaching a fatal termination in himself.

"He is only forty-one years of age, though he looks so much older. His father died when he was quite young, and his dying words to his wife were, 'bring Edward up tenderly.' This request, it is needless to say, was literally fulfilled. He was brought up ten-

derly, too tenderly as it proved, for his wayward temper first led him into many a boyish scrape, afterwards ripening into manhood's vices.

"When seventeen years of age, a commission was procured for him in the Indian army; he soon afterwards set sail from his native country and joined his regiment. In India his temper, which he had never learnt to control, led him into a great deal of trouble, and a love of gambling and drinking which soon developed itself, encircled him with large debts. These his dotingly fond mother paid. Soon afterwards, however, he committed such an offence against all military honour, and morality in general, that he was obliged to resign his commission and return to England. His disgrace was a crushing blow to his mother, it broke her heart, and she died.

"A few months after, appearing to be deeply penitent, a most excellent appointment was procured for him in Australia, a post of influence and trust. He went out provided with everything suitable to his new position. Here, however, as soon as the novelty of the situation wore off, his old bad habits were renewed with tenfold intensity, and a second time he returned to his native land covered with disgrace.

"A rupture took place between himself and his family. I, his sister, paid all his debts and settled a small sum upon him to be paid monthly through the family lawyer. For four years he entirely disappeared, and would never let us know where or how he was living. At length we traced him to a low part of the east end of London, and found him living with the vilest associates. Our efforts were in vain to reclaim him, and I never met him until the day I came here and saw him in this awful condition. When he was in London he met with this woman, and they passed as man and wife. A feeling of shame perhaps induced him to drop his own surname and adopt hers instead. I must, however, do her the credit to say that she persuaded him to leave the vile neighbourhood in which they were located, and they removed to a back street in the west central district of the metropolis. She obtained the washing of some of the more respectable families in the neighbourhood. And he, when he was sober, employed himself in ironing the linen, and was so lost to shame that he actually carried it home to the very houses where he had formerly dined as an equal. Their quarrelsome habits and their drunkenness combined, lost them the washing of respectable people, and his illness increasing they were obliged to move into cheaper lodgings. They tried to support themselves by keeping a sweet shop for children, but failed; and at last they resolved to sell all they possessed and come down into Devonshire, where they vainly hoped the climate would perhaps restore him to his wonted health."

Such was the melancholy history told me by this lady. She was much distressed at the sad condition of her brother, and most anxious about the state of his soul. The payment of his debts had much impoverished her, as they were of very large amount. She remained in the neighbourhood for three weeks, until her brother died, seeing him and attending him every day. She seemed satisfied with the sincerity of his repentance, but I confess that his excessive deafness made it an extremely difficult task to make him at all sensible of what was addressed to him, and when he seemed to understand there was little response.

What a sad ending was this to a life so happily and prosperously commenced; and what a lesson of warning to young men should this record be of a thoroughly wasted life!

JAM

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